

WILLIS CEMETERY IN THE BINGHAMPTON COMMUNITY

Visited July 24, 1970. This small, greatly overgrown and neglected cemetery is located between 2656 Faxon Avenue and the railroad tracks, at the rear of the property fronting on Faxon. It is enclosed by a fence, along the greater portion of which is a deep culvert. It could be entered at one point at the west end.

The compilers were guided to this cemetery by Mr. H.J. Stewart, 2511 Yale Avenue, Memphis, who said he had lived in the area prior to the first World War. Mr. Stewart helped clear away weeds and vines to locate the few stones found. He said there were many other stones in the cemetery some fifty years ago, but the culvert and a spur railroad track had been put through part of the cemetery. He remembered that a Mrs. _____ Webb's baby had been buried there, and suggested that a Mrs. _____ Ainsworth, Mrs. Webb's oldest daughter, might be able to provide more information, but she has not been located.

Wm. A. Myers

Born Dec. 10, 1870

Died Dec. 24, 1907

Though lost to sight to memory dear.

W.O.W. emblem on base of stone.

Footstone: W.A.M.

(This large stone had fallen to the ground and could not be rolled or lifted to determine if there was another inscription on the other side.)

Loose footstone: A.R.M.

Top of a smaller stone: _____ A.(?) Myers

Willis

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(In loving memory of

(Gideon W. Willis

(Born April 7, 1836

(Died February 13, 1894

(

(Frances Lipford

(Wife of G.W. Willis

(Born Oct. 6, 1842

(Died June 29, 1908

(

(There is no death

Obituary, The Appeal, June 30, 1908: Frances A. Willis, wife of the late G.W. Willis, mother of Eugene and Henry Willis, Mrs. R.E. Morrman and Mrs. Ida Lola Willis, and daughter of H.S. Lipford of Ashland, Miss. Interment private.

Obituary, The Appeal, Dec. 26, 1907: William A. Myers, 37, husband of Mollie C. Myers. Interment at Willis Cemetery. Palmetto, Fla., and Los Angeles, Cal. papers please copy.

NOTES - NEW HOPE (SANGA) BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY, continued.

Church members and descendants of those buried here still meet on the grounds once a year to clean and care for the cemetery and to have a picnic. About 1889, a railroad was built about two miles north of the Sanga Community, and the town of Dexter, now Cordova, developed. Most of the residents of the Sanga area moved to the new town.

Mrs. Carrie Lurry Rogers (Mrs. Claude Buster Rogers), 1038 Blake Road, Mrs. Harold Downs, 8436 Macon Road, both of Cordova, Tenn., and Mr. Wesley M. Houpe, 4584 Dearing Road, Memphis, are descendants of the early families of the Sanga area and provided the following information about some of the families:

Mrs. Rogers was one of eleven children of Thomas W. and Mary F. (Wilson) Lurry, both of whom are buried in this cemetery. Others of the eleven were Abner J. Lurry, Emorage Hugh Lurry, Joseph Virginia Lurry and Carl Lurry. Mary F. Wilson was the daughter of Edward Hough and Lydia (Heckle) Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Buster Rogers are buried in Cordova Cemetery. They had two sons, Claude Buster Rogers, Jr., who died in infancy and who is buried in Sanga Cemetery, and Carl W. Rogers who has charge of burials in nearby Cordova Cemetery.

Mr. Wesley M. Houpe is the son of Reginald M. and Beatrice (Carter) Houpe. She was the daughter of John Wesley and Tennessee "Tennie" Virginia (Owen) Carter. John Wesley Carter was the son of Braxton Carter. Sarah Owen, buried here, was the grandmother of Tennessee Virginia Owen.

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